

NOTICE OF A DESIGN PUBLIC HEARING FOR THE EAST END CONNECTOR
FROM THE DURHAM FREEWAY (N.C. 147) TO NORTH OF HOLLOWAY STREET
(N.C. 98) IN DURHAM

TIP Project No. U-0071

Durham County

The North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) will hold a Design Public Hearing on Thursday, March 25, 2010, for the proposed highway project referenced above, in the second-floor auditorium of the Holton Career and Resource Center, located at 401 N. Driver Street in Durham. Parking and entrance to the Center is behind the building, between Taylor and Southgate Streets.

NCDOT representatives will be available between the hours of 4:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. for an informal pre-hearing to answer questions and receive comments about the proposed project. The formal presentation and public hearing will begin at 7 p.m. in the auditorium. There will be an opportunity to submit verbal comments or concerns, if desired, following the presentation.

NCDOT proposes the East End Connector project to provide a direct freeway connection between the Durham Freeway and U.S. 70 in Durham County. The project will begin on the Durham Freeway (N.C. 147) near Glover Road and end on U.S. 70 just south of Cheek Road. The proposed project also will upgrade U.S. 70 to a freeway from Holloway Street (N.C. 98) to Pleasant Drive. U.S. 70 has already been upgraded to a freeway north of Holloway Street.

The proposed project is about 3.6 miles long. The initial phase of the Connector includes two continuous through lanes in each direction divided by a 50-foot median, plus auxiliary (merge) lanes as needed. A future phase of the Connector would include adding an additional continuous through lane in each direction to be constructed in the median. The Connector will be designed to interstate standards. Freeway-to-freeway junctions will be provided between U.S. 70 and the Connector and between the Connector and N.C. 147.

The purpose of the proposed project is to decrease accident rates, improve safety, and provide connectivity between the Durham Freeway and U.S. 70. The project will also provide access to Interstate 40 to the south and Interstate 85 to the north. The project will provide improved access to major employment centers such as the Research Triangle Park; connect suburban areas and divert through traffic away from many local streets.

Maps displaying the location and design of the project and a copy of the environmental document, the Environmental Assessment (EA), are available for public review at: The City of Durham – Transportation Division, located at 101 City Hall Plaza (4th floor), and at the NCDOT Highway Division 5 Office, located at 2612 N. Duke Street, in Durham. The EA and the hearing map are available online at: www.ncdot.gov/projects/eastendconnector/. The EA also can be viewed at: www.durhamnc.gov/departments/works/pdf/EECEEA10_2009.pdf.

Anyone desiring additional information may contact Drew Joyner, P.E., NCDOT-Human Environment Unit, at 1598 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-1598, phone (919) 431-6700, or e-mail: djoyner@ncdot.gov. Additional written comments may be submitted to Mr. Joyner until April 30, 2010.

NCDOT will provide auxiliary aids and services under the Americans with Disabilities Act for disabled persons who want to participate in this hearing. Anyone requiring special services should contact Mr. Joyner as early as possible so that arrangements can be made.